

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB
A1 7

1. An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images, the visual sensor selectively directed toward a first position to sense a first image and toward a second position to sense a second image; and
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of processing the image data as a function of direction of the visual sensor toward the first position or the second position.
2. The image capturing system of claim 1 and further comprising
a storage device for storing a first processing value and a second processing value, wherein the image processor processes the image data of the first position using the first processing value, and wherein the image processor processes the image data of the second position using the second processing value.
3. The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the visual sensor includes a zoom lens, and wherein the first processing value relates to a first setting of the zoom lens and the second processing value relates to a second setting of the zoom lens.
4. The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the

first processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the first image and the second processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the second image.

5. The image capturing system of claim 1 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device having a plurality of sensing elements.

6. The image capturing system of claim 5 wherein the sensing device comprises a linear array of sensing elements.

7. An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor adapted to provide image data corresponding to sensed visual images of a writing surface; and
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of identifying information provided on the writing surface apart from the writing surface.

8. The image capturing system of claim 7 and further comprising a storage device for storing a reference visual image, and wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual image to identify information provided on the writing surface.

9. The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device adapted to

scan the writing surface.

10. The image capturing system of claim 7 and further comprising a storage device for storing a processing value related to correction of the visual image for optical distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing value during image processing.

11. The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the image processor is adapted to identify an area requiring reimaging. *A1-
cont*

12. The image capturing system of claim 11 wherein the image processor controls the visual sensor to obtain a second visual image of at least the area, if reimaging is required, and wherein the processor is adapted to combine the first-mentioned visual image with the second visual image.

13. An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images, the visual sensor comprising a set of adjacent sensing elements being exposed collectively to successive portions of the image; and
a storage device for storing sensing element control values
a controller coupled to the storage device and the visual sensor, the controller controlling a time duration of exposure of the sensing elements to the portion of image as a function of exposure to successive portions.

14. The image capturing system of claim 13 wherein a sensing element control value is provided for each sensing element for each successive portion of the image.

15. The image capturing system of claim 13 and further comprising: an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of identifying information provided on the writing surface apart from the writing surface.

16. The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing a reference visual image, and wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual image to identify information provided on the writing surface.

17. The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing a processing value related to correction of the visual image for optical distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing value during image processing.

18. In combination with a defined writing surface provided in a fixed location in a room, an image capturing system disposed in the room at a second location remote from the writing surface to sense successive visual images of the writing surface and adapted to identify information provided on the writing surface.

19. The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system including an image processor to identify information on the writing surface as a function of a reference visual image of the writing surface.

20. The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor disposed above the writing surface.

21. The combination of claim 20 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

22. The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor disposed within the room to sense images of the writing surface and a second area spaced apart from the writing surface.

23. The combination of claim 22 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a wall of the room.

24. The combination of claim 23 wherein the visual sensor is disposed above the writing surface.

25. The combination of claim 24 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

26. The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor adapted to scan the writing surface.

27. A method of obtaining information provided on a writing surface in a room, the method including:

locating an image capturing system at a second location in the room remote from the writing surface;

sensing a visual image of the writing surface with the image capturing system; and

identifying information provided on the writing surface with the image capturing system.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein identifying information includes identifying information as a function of a reference visual image of the writing surface.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein sensing a visual image includes compensating for distortion of the visual image.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein sensing includes sensing a plurality of visual images.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein identifying includes identifying information as a function of a plurality of visual images.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein identifying includes identifying includes comparing a first visual image to a second visual image.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein sensing a visual image includes imitating sensing of a visual image with a switch movable relative to the second location.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein the image capturing system is selectively directable to obtain a visual image of the writing surface and a visual image of a second area, the method further comprising directing the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area, and wherein sensing includes sensing a visual image of the writing surface or the second area.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein positioning includes operating a switch to direct the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein sensing comprises providing image data corresponding to the visual image, and wherein the method further comprises storing a first processing value and a second processing value, and processing the image data using the first processing value and the second processing value as a function of direction of the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area, respectively.

37. The method of claim 31 wherein sensing comprises scanning the writing surface.

38. The method of claim 31 wherein identifying information includes detecting an area of the writing surface requiring reimaging.

39. The method of claim 38 and further comprising:
reimaging at least the area of the writing surface
to obtain a second visual image; and

combining the first-mentioned visual image with the second visual image.

[illegible]